

Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /097 W

----- 117369

R 232120Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8614

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DEPT PASS DOD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, HA

SUBJECT: INCIDENT AT SEPTEMBER 22 RALLY

1. A CARELESS VSN GUARD AT THE NATIONAL PALACE RALLY HONORING THE SEVENTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LATE FRANCOIS DUVALIER'S ELECTION AS PRESIDENT CAUSED MAJOR TURMOIL WHEN HIS AUTOMATIC CARBINE ACCIDENTLY FIRED SEVERAL ROUNDS THAT CAME WITHIN THREE METERS OF THE PLATFORM ON WHICH PRESIDENT DUVALIER, HIS MOTHER AND OTHER LEADING OFFICIALS WERE SEATED. NOBODY WAS HIT, BUT DIGNITY WAS MOMENTARILY FORGOTTEN BY MANY OFFICIALS AS THEY DIVED FOR COVER. THE HAPLESS VSN WAS QUIETLY BUT QUICKLY LED AWAY BY ORDER OF SPECIAL SECURITY ADVISOR LUC DESIR.

2. BY FAR THE COOLEST PERSON THROUGHOUT THE BRIEF MELEE WAS THE PRESIDENT, WHO REMAINED SEATED BUT MOVED SOMEWHAT PROTECTIVELY IN FRONT OF HIS MOTHER, WHO ALSO REMAINED SEATED. GEN. GRACIA JACQUES EARNED HIS PAY AS COMMANDER OF THE PRESIDENTIAL GUARD BY PLACING HIMSELF IN FRONT OF THE PRESIDENT, WHILE EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE GENERAL STAFF COL. JEAN THOMAS PULLED HIS GUN. ARMED FORCES CHIEF-OF-STAFF GEN. JEAN HILAIRE, HOWEVER, MAY HAVE SOME EXPLAINING TO DO FOR SCRAMBLING OUT OF THE POTENTIAL LINE OF FIRE IN APPARENT PANIC.

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3. THE INCIDENT OCCURED BEFORE LIVE TV CAMERAS COVERING THE
OTHERWISE UNEVENTFUL RALLY, BUT IT WAS NOT MENTIONED IN THE
MORNING PRESS SEPT. 23. ORDER AND COMPOSURE WERE QUICKLY RESTORED,
AND THE SPEECH-MAKING AND OTHER FESTIVITIES RESUMED.
ISHAM

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS, ACCIDENTS, POLITICAL LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PORTA01875
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740267-0868
From: PORT AU PRINCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740922/aaaaasoe.tel
Line Count: 66
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INCIDENT AT SEPTEMBER 22 RALLY
TAGS: PGOV, PINS, HA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005